Hoover Letter Calls Ruby FBI Stoolie

Ruby-FBI Link Disclosed by Warren Commission

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speculation about Oswald's own possible FBI connection.

A recently declassified transcript of a Warren Commission meeting held Jan. 22, 1964, documents the commissioners' fear of disclosure of any links Oswald may have had with the FBI or other U.S. intelligence agencies.

THE TRANSCRIPT details a meeting of the commission hastily called after Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr passed to the commission a Jan. 1, 1964, story from the Houston Post headlined: "Oswald Rumored as Informant for the U.S."

The story said Dallas law enforcement officials suspected Oswald may have been an informant for the FBI and cited the presence of a local FBI agent's name, address and license plate number in Oswald's address book and several FBI interviews with Oswald after his return from the Soviet Union.

On the transcript, Warren Commission members Gerald Ford, Allen Dulles, Rep. Hale Boggs (D., La.), Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.), commission counsel Lee Rankin and Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman, are discussing the possible repercussions if it were true and it became public that Oswald had worked for the FBI in any capacity:

Ford (then a GOP representative from Michigan, now President): But when the Chief Justice and I were just briefly reflecting on this (Oswald's possible FBI connection) we said that if it was true and it ever came out and could be established, then you would have people think that there was a conspiracy to accomplish this assassination, that nothing the commission did or anybody could disperse.

Boggs: You are so right.

Dulles (head of the CIA from 1953-61): Terrible.

Rankin: To have anybody admit it, even if it was the fact I am sure there wouldn't at this point be anything to prove it.

Dulles: Lee, if this were true, why would it be particularly in their (the FBI's) interest? I could see it would be in their interest to get rid of this man, but why whould it be in their interest to say that he is clearly the only guilty one?

BOGGS: I can immediately . . .

RANKIN: They would like to have us fold up and quit.

BOGGS: This closes the case, don't you see?

DULLES: Yes, I see that.

The dialogue continues for several moments until the commissioners become aware that their remarks are being stenographicly recorded. Then Boggs, refering to the speculative nature of the discussion, says:

"I don't even like to see this being taken down."

DULLES: Yes. I think this record ought to be destroyed. Do you think we need a record of this?

Boggs replies a bit later saying, "I would hope that none of these records are circulated to anybody."

WHAT THE COMMISSION did, in effect, about the rumored Oswald-FBI connection was to call J. Edgar Hoover and ask him. In lengthy testimony May 14, 1964 before the commission, Hoover repeatedly denied that Oswald was an informant or employe of the bureau.

Hoover said: "We have obtained, and they are on file with the commission, the affidavits of the agents who at various times were in contact with Oswald, to the effect that he was not an informant; that they had never paid him anything; that he was being questioned as to possible recruitment by the Soviet intelligence; so there was no evidence at any time indicating employment by the FBI."

The commission, apparently dismissed the Oswald-FBI link without checking further.

Ruby guns down Oswald in Dallas jail on Nov. 24, 1963

Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas in 1963, was an FBI informant as early as 1959.

That's revealed in an unpublicized letter from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission charged with investigating the President's death.

The letter, dated June 9, 1964, was declassified in 1965 at the National Archives but not made public. A private citizen's group investigating the Kennedy killing discovered it earlier this year.

Hoover

The Warren Commission failed to mention the Hoover letter or Ruby's FBI connection in its 26-volume report, according to Mark Lane, a Washington attorney and longtime critic of the commission's finding that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

LANE NOW HEADS the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, a group lobbying to have Congress reopen the investigation into the 1963 assassination.

Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, shot Oswald to death in the Dallas jail Nov. 4, 1963, two days after President Kennedy was slain.

In the hand-delivered letter, Hoover advised the commission the FBI first contacted Ruby on March 11, 1959, and requested he act as an informant because of his "knowledge of the criminal element in Dallas."

Hoover said Ruby "expressed a willingness to furnish information" and that no other results were obtained. Agents met with Ruby on eight other occasions between March 11, 1959, and Oct. 2, 1959, but received no information from him, and so discontinued the meetings, the Hoover letter contends.

Lane was to hold a press conference last week in Washington to release the Hoover letter, but decided instead to turn his findings over to Rep. Don Edwards (D., Calif.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the Judiciary.

IN A TELEPHONE interview with the Daily News, Lane said Edwards was requesting FBI Director Clarence Kelley to furnish House investigators with copies of the FBI "302" reports that would contain more details of the agents' meetings with Ruby. It is standard practice for agents to file such reports after each interview.

That the Warren Commission failed to mention Ruby's FBI connection in its report after a 10-month investigation is, according to Lane, just another part of the "fraud, deception and repression" he says government agencies have engaged in since the assassination.

The initially suppressed FBI link to Ruby comes in the midst of renewed

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